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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9198
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHEVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000071

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA, DRL AND INL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2030

TAGS: [PGOV PHUM BA](#)

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT ON TORTURE IN BAHRAIN

REF: A. 08 MANAMA 471

[1B.](#) 08 MANAMA 236

[1C.](#) 09MANAMA 220 D. 09 MANAMA 241 E. 09 MANAMA 587 Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(SBU) Summary: A new Human Rights Watch report asserts that torture has been "revived" as a component of interrogations in Bahrain. The report
- 2.(U) Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report entitled "Torture Redux: the Revival of Physical Coercion during Interrogations in Bahrain," a
- 3.(SBU) The former detainees were interviewed by Joe Stork, deputy head of HRW's MENA division, and Joshua Colangelo-Bryan of the New York office
- [4.](#) (SBU) During Stork's June 2009 interviews, the former detainees alleged that they had been suspended in painful positions, beaten on the soles of their feet
- 5.(U) The HRW report notes that the MOI and NSA have French and British advisors, and states that France and the U.K. "may risk being implicated in the torture"
- 6.(C) At the February 8 press conference, Stork asserted that the Government had reverted to practices it employed in the 1990s. He stressed that the Government
- 7.(U) Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa led the official response, announcing February 9 that the government will look into the allegations
- 8.(C) Shia opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman of the Wifaq party called on the GOB to heed HRW's recommendations. Wifaq MP Jasim Husain told the press
- 9.(SBU) Stork told poloff that during a meeting with the Shaikh Rashid and his senior MOI advisors, the Minister did not specifically deny the allegations
- [10.](#) (U) On February 9, Abdulla Al Derazi, head of the independent Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS) -- which offered advice to HRW and at which the report was
- 11.(C) Critics complained in the local press that Stork and Colangelo-Bryan relied on the assistance of a narrow group of Bahraini activists who were
- 12.(SBU) Critics also contend that the tone and content of the report indicate sympathy for Shia radicals' points of view. For example, the report
- 13.(C) The Bahraini government's commitment to look into the allegations is welcome. Post will urge the GOB to conduct an inquiry that is timely and